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THE WORKER

While Lodge Talks The Generals Pick The Bomb Targets

By ART SHIELDS

I COULD ALMOST see the Generals' grins when I heard Henry Cabot Lodge at the UN's Security Council.

The U-2 was just a "non military, one-man plane" on a "harmless observation flight," said President Eisenhower's representative in the presence of a hundred newspaper men and women.

The U. S. delegate was pleading "not guilty" to the Soviet Union's charge of "aggression."

But the Generals, who were listening in at their TV sets in the Pentagon, knew differently. For the Generals were picking H-bomb targets that very day. And they made no secret about it. The facts about the target-picking had been leaked out to the press. And I quote from a New York Times Washington story of May 22:

LISTING THE TARGETS

"The review of strategic war plans, now in its final stages at the Pentagon," said the Times, "is being conducted by the Joint Chief of Staff. It will offer for approval by Secretary Gates and ultimately the National Security Council, a new list of strategic targets in the Soviet Union."

(Targets picked by Lodge's "harmless" spy planes.)

The "target" story continued: "The problem has several factors. One concerns the number of targets, and the priorities that must be determined."

"Secretary Gates must now allocate Soviet target priorities to the Polaris submarines."

This is the same Defense Secretary, who staged the worldwide "combat alert" the day before the Summit date. The combat alert was doubtless intended to wreck the Summit. And Walter Lippmann sharply commented that — "The timing of this 'exercise' was just a shade worse than sending the U-2 on its perilous mission two weeks before the summit." For a worldwide combat alert is "one of the preliminary stages" of a nuclear war, said Lippmann.

PENTAGON FIREBRANDS

Gates — a banker — represents the firebrand sections of Wall Street. He is playing with the idea of a "preventive war" against the Socialist lands, like Truman's Navy Secretary Matthews, another banker. And one remembers the people's alarm when Matthews made his reckless "Aggressors for Peace" speech on August 25, 1950.

"To have Peace," said Matthews, "we should be willing to declare our intention to pay any price — even the

price of initiating a war to compel cooperation for Peace."

Matthews admitted that such a war would "cast us in a character new to a true democracy, as initiators of aggressive war." But he wanted the United States to start the shooting none the less.

Matthews had to resign soon after. The people's wrath was too great. And Gates — the Wall Street firebrand — should follow suit.

Unfortunately Gates isn't the only aggressive warmonger in high Government circles. The Generals are rattling the saber every day. And some Army and Congressional leaders are publicly hinting that they believe in "preventive war," that is in aggressive war, even when they speak against it. And I quote from the recent hearings of the Defense Subcommittee of the House of Representatives Appropriation Committee.

MORE SABER RATTLING

General Thomas S. Powers, Commander of the Strategic Air Command, which drops the big bombs, was testifying:

"I am not advocating preventive war," said Powers. "The mission of the SAC is deterrence. . . . However . . . I also submit that you will not deter a war unless you have the capability to start a war."

"Right," replied Rep. George H. Mahon, the Texas Democrat. . . .

And Mahon added:

"I suppose you agree . . . with Washington several years ago that all of this big talk . . . It came when the Washington Post published excerpts from a secret diary of the U. S. Attaché in Moscow, May 1945. . . . (Quoted in I. F. Stone's *Robert Walker Grow* Weekly.)

This sentence is tangled. But the thinking of the Dixiecrat leader, stands out sharply nevertheless. And Powers, the H-bomb flight commander, appears to be tugging at the leash.

PRICE WE WOULD PAY

This is deadly talk. General Powers and Mahon know that "preventive war" would bring a terrible counter blow. Cyrus Eaton, the Cleveland banker, has been conferring with nuclear scientists. And Eaton warns us that seventy-five million Americans would perish at once in a nuclear war. Fifty million more would die later from radiation poisoning.

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And Grow went on to advocate the "subversion," that Allen Dulles's Central Intelligence Agency boasts about.

"We must employ every subversive device to undermine the loyalty of Soviet subjects to their regime," the diary declared. . . . Anything, truth or falsehood, to poison the thoughts of the population."

And General Grow tells of his search for "targets" in his rambles through Moscow. He gloats at the discovering of an aircraft position. And describes a bridge as a good "target." . . . a passage quoted in the former major's book.

General Grow was court-martialed and suspended for months for his "indiscretion" in his handling of "classified material." But no criticism of his "war . . . now," thinking. His "hitting below the belt" idea was voiced by his Pentagon superiors. And the reason for this seems rather plain. For many of Grow's superiors thought they were saving themselves.

PEACE CAN WIN

The war can be prevented, however. All but the maddest warmongers are afraid of the terrible counter blows that would fall upon them. But those maddest warmongers are influential. And the fight for Peace is the fight for the future of the world. One fight today.